

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (New) A picture coding method for coding a moving picture having a plurality of pictures, on a picture-by-picture basis, using a set of picture numbers repeatedly assigned in coding order to respective pictures included in the moving picture such that more than one of the pictures included in the moving picture has the same picture number, the picture coding method comprising:

a first adding step of adding, using a first adding unit, a first memory management command to a first picture having a predetermined picture number, the first memory management command being information for managing the first picture; and

a second adding step of adding, using a second adding unit, a second memory management command to a point of a second picture, the second memory management command being the same as the first memory management command, the second picture being different from the first picture, and the first picture being located earlier than the second picture in coding order,

wherein, in the second adding step, the second memory management command is added to the point of the second picture after a determination is made that the first picture, from among a plurality of pictures each having the predetermined picture number, is located immediately previous to the second picture in coding order.

14. (New) A picture coding apparatus that codes a moving picture having a plurality of pictures, on a picture-by-picture basis, using a set of picture numbers repeatedly assigned in

coding order to respective pictures included in the moving picture such that more than one of the pictures included in the moving picture has the same picture number, the picture coding apparatus comprising:

a first adding unit operable to add a first memory management command to a first picture having a predetermined picture number, the first memory management command being information for managing the first picture; and

a second adding unit operable to add a second memory management command to a point of a second picture, the second memory management command being the same as the first memory management command, the second picture being different from the first picture, and the first picture being located earlier than the second picture in coding order,

wherein the second adding unit adds the second memory management command to the point of the second picture after a determination is made that the first picture, from among a plurality of pictures each having the predetermined picture number, is located immediately previous to the second picture in coding order.

15. (New) A picture coding method for generating a coded picture stream of a moving picture by coding a moving picture having a plurality of pictures, on a picture-by-picture basis, using a set of picture numbers repeatedly assigned in coding order to respective pictures included in the moving picture such that more than one of the pictures included in the moving picture has the same picture number, the picture coding method comprising:

a first adding step of adding, using a first adding unit, a first memory management command to a first picture having a predetermined picture number, the first memory management command being information for managing the first picture; and

a second adding step of adding, using a second adding unit, a second memory management command to the coded picture stream of the moving picture, the second memory management command being the same as the first memory management command, and the first picture being located earlier than the second memory management command in coding order,

wherein, in the second adding step, the second memory management command is added to the coded picture stream of the moving picture after a determination is made that the first picture, from among a plurality of pictures each having the predetermined picture number, is located immediately previous to the second memory management command in coding order.